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## **Patrick- Murray Administration Announces \$28 Million in Federal Block Grants for Community Improvement Projects**

*41 communities including Greenfield receive funds for housing, business, infrastructure upgrades, and public service programs*

CHELSEA - July 7, 2011 - In keeping with the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to spurring economic activity, creating jobs and strengthening communities across the state, Governor Deval Patrick today announced that 41 cities and towns across the Commonwealth will receive \$28 million in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to support housing, infrastructure, business development and public services projects. The Town of Greenfield will receive \$1 million to be used for storefront façade improvements, housing rehabilitation, sewer replacement projects on Columbus and Hall Avenues as well as funds for the food pantry, substance abuse counseling, adult literacy and ESOL.

“These grants will allow communities to put people to work while moving forward on a multitude of improvement projects that will attract businesses to the Commonwealth,” said Governor Patrick. “Funding that allows cities and towns to fix up homes and storefronts, continue to provide public services or replace streets and sidewalks will strengthen Massachusetts and provide important opportunities to residents and businesses.”

The town of Greenfield will use these funds for a number of projects including housing rehabilitation targeting code violations, funding to support the Center for Self Reliance Food Pantry, The Recovery Annex to provide substance abuse counseling for veterans and residents transitioning from incarceration, veterans, education programs including Adult Basic Education

through the Literacy Project, ESOL at the Center for New Americans and dual-enrollment for high school students at Greenfield Community College.

“As we continue to invest in cities and towns across the Commonwealth, improving our infrastructure and housing stock helps to support the state’s economic success,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Chair of the Inter-agency Council on Housing and Homelessness. “We thank our congressional delegation for supporting our efforts to reinvigorate our communities and build a stronger Commonwealth for the future.”

“This investment will help Massachusetts modernize neighborhoods and create jobs, ” said Senator John Kerry.

The CDBG program is the Commonwealth’s largest available resource for neighborhood revitalization projects and helps meet the housing and public service needs of low and moderate-income communities while building and repairing infrastructure vital to the health and safety of all residents. The infrastructure projects help communities create and maintain jobs while providing important improvements to the lives of residents in each city and town. Historically, 40 percent of CDBG funds distributed have been used for these job-creating projects.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and funds are distributed by the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to cities and towns in Massachusetts with populations of less than 50,000. Eligible communities with populations greater than 50,000 receive program funding directly from HUD. Communities may apply for CDBG funding for activities including: housing rehabilitation projects, infrastructure repair or replacement, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities, neighborhood improvement projects, economic development loans and other business assistance programs, social service upgrades, downtown improvement projects and architectural barrier removal and planning. The maximum grant for a single community is \$1 million. Regional applications are accepted.

“Cities and towns are looking to maximize every available resource at this time,” said DHCD Undersecretary Tina Brooks. “These grants will be put to good use providing quality public services and opportunities for residents.”

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